

Board of Health, September 24, 2012
TOWN OF SCITUATE MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
September 24th, 2012

The Scituate Board of Health held a meeting on Monday, September 24th, 2012 at the Scituate Town Hall located at 600 CJC Highway. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Russell Clark, Board Member Michael Vazza, Health Department Director, Jennifer L. Sullivan and Secretary, Mary Montanari. Terry McGovern of Morse Engineering was also present. A number of Scituate residents were also in attendance to discuss wind turbine issues.

A motion was made by Mr. Clark to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vazza and unanimously approved. Mr. Vazza motioned to accept the Meeting Minutes from September 10th, Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS UPDATE:

Public Health Director Jennifer Sullivan updated board members on the high risk warning for EEE virus for the Town of Scituate. The elevated threat level was recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Ms. Sullivan said she had contacted the Superintendent of Schools, the Recreation Department and other Town Departments to arrange for all outdoor activities to end 45 minutes prior to sunset, and take personal protective measures. Ms. Sullivan also stated the elevated threat would stay in force until the first-frost or until MDPH advised otherwise.

Board members introduced themselves to members of the public.

7:10 PM - PUBLIC HEARING, TITLE 5
Septic System Installation – 159 R. Glades Road
Terry McGovern (Morse Engineering) presenting for homeowner

LOCAL UPGRADE APPROVAL REQUESTS

- 310 CMR 15.40(A): To allow a minimum setback of 2' from the tanks to the property line
- 310 CMR 15.405(A): To allow a minimum setback of 7.5' from the SAS to the property line
- 310 CMR 15.405(F): To allow a minimum setback of 40' from the SAS to the salt marsh
- 301 CMR 15.505(A) Setback from tank to crawl space @ 5'
- 310 CMR 15.405 (H) Use of only one (1) deep hole in SAS location
- 310 CMR 15.405 (J) To allow reduction to 2", inlet to groundwater

I/A/ TECHNOLOGY CREDIT:

- To allow a 3' separation (min) between the bottom of the soil absorption system and seasonal high groundwater table.

Mr. McGovern explained the local upgrades requested, the system type and the plan for board members. Health Director Jennifer Sullivan mentioned this was an innovative component and would require a deed restriction and a service contract prior to final approval. After reviewing the plans, Mr. Vazza motioned to accept the variances with stipulated requirements prior to final approval. Mr. Clark seconded and the motion and it was unanimously approved.

7:20 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING – WIND TURBINE ISSUES:

Mr. David Dardi of 122 Gilson Road addressed the group on a variety of health issues he and other residents have been experiencing. They believed those health issues are a direct result of the installation of the Scituate wind turbine located on Driftway.

- Mr. Dardi stated his property is located 3200 feet away from the turbine.
- He described the 'whooshing' sound associated with the turbine as changing in intensity depending upon the speed and direction of the wind.
- He stated when the wind is SW, the sound becomes a high pitched whine.
- Even with the window's closed, the sound remains bothersome.
- Mr. Dardi has also consulted with his physician regarding low grade headaches, insomnia and ringing in his ears.

Other residents spoke about issues they were experiencing.

- Ms. Valeri Vitali of 34 Driftway mentioned complaining to the DPW regarding the noise. She was told they would look into it. She described the sound as a marble rolling around in the washing machine.
- Mr. David Dardi of 122 Gilson Road said the 15 foot turbine blades were likened to 18 tons of spinning rotors. He was sure noise pollution was an issue.
- Ms. Joann Bianchini of 122 Gilson Road stated the noise is noticeable even with the windows closed.
- Ms. Sally Rossi Ormon of 27 Morrland Road stated she was pro-wind and for alternative energy. She had taken photos of the wind turbine with the sun setting behind it. She has also experienced the constant sound as well as reflections for 42 minutes a day. The flicker effect and the sound have been a problem.
- Mr. Gerard Kelly of 56 Moorland Road mentioned sleep deprivation. He stated he had premium grade windows in his house, but could still hear the sound. He also mentioned when the marsh floods, the sound is amplified.
- Mr. Bruce Beagley of 68 Moorland Road stated machines that size have no business being in a residential area. He stated he has experienced nausea, vertigo and insomnia. He also stated he had has had to seek medical advice regarding these symptoms and has letters from doctors.
- Mr. Mark McKeever of 151 Driftway is 640 feet away from the wind turbine. He stated sleep deprivation as a major issue for him and his family. He spoke about finding his kids waking up in the middle of the night and mentioned the concentration problems they have experienced as a result of interrupted sleep. Mr. McKeever did not believe the wind turbine ever should have been placed on the site Scituate chose because of its proximity to residential properties. Mr. McKeever also invited board members to his home to hear the sound for themselves.
- Mr. Ken Ingber of 60 New Driftway, noted the matter before the Board of Health was a monumental one. He thought it was a difficult matter for a single panel to take up. He mentioned it involving science, politics and health.
- Mr. Sumul Shah of Scituate Wind stated he was there to listen. He stated his organization and the developers are committed to maintain the site and work with residents and the Town cooperatively.

Mr. Dardi also presented the board with a packet of letters from residents located near the wind turbine consisting of various medical symptoms they have been experiencing. He recommended the Board of Health take immediate action and shut down the wind turbine in accordance with MA General Laws 111, Section 122. He stated he was counting on the Board of Health to protect the public health of all Scituate residents.

Health Director Jennifer Sullivan stated that the board was taking their complaints very seriously. She mentioned the fact that the turbine hasn't been up for a year yet, and this was all so new. She encouraged residents to keep a log of how changing seasons might affect their health issues. Chairman of the Board Russell Clark thanked all in attendance for a well done presentation. He mentioned board member Frank Lynch being out of town and stated he wanted to get him up to speed once he returned. He also stated this was a lot of information to digest. This wasn't a problem that could be solved in a few weeks. The Board of Health would review complaints, gather research from other towns, and review existing studies related to

wind turbines and health.

Mr. Michael Vazza made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM, the motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and was approved unanimously.